

**Special scoop**  
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**Guest Take**

DR. G. ROBERT LAMAR

Double your pleasure, double your fun – See the "Other Lipe"

OK, you have pleasure, double your fun – See the "Other Lipe"

Soaking up sun, you have been snorkeling and diving on the coral reefs around the islands. Perhaps you have even found Nemo swimming among the sea anemones.

While you are here, I encourage you to take a little time to get to know the "Other Lipe." The map shows a number of sites labeled "Sea Gypsy Village" – the people living in those villages are the original inhabitants of Lipe Island – the Vrak Lawoi. They are called sea gypsies because in the past they traveled from island to island with the seasons, setting up temporary fishing camps. According to their oral history, the Vrak Lawoi at Lipe originally came from the Ache area of Indonesia about 100 years ago, let by a man named to him. He is still very much honored by the Vrak Lawoi people; his shrine is located near Andaman.

You are welcome to visit an Vrak Lawoi village. When you do, you will be transported into a different world far from the tourist scene. The life of the Vrak Lawoi is focused on sustainably harvesting the bounty of the sea. They fish using a hook and line and also with environmentally appropriate fish traps. Unlike the nets of many commercial fishing trawlers, their fish traps have a large size mesh that lets small fish and other sea creatures escape. Any sea turtles or dolphins that run into a trap just bounce off unharmed.

In the late afternoon, you may see an Vrak Lawoi man carrying home a fish or two for the family's evening meal. If you are really lucky, maybe a family will invite you to join them for dinner.

I hope you enjoy your visit to the "Other Lipe."

G. Lamar Robert, Ph.D.  
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